



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MANA
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,653	11/07/2001	Michael A. Vyvoda	40025.002	9868
33971	7590	03/04/2005	EXAMINER	
MATRIX SEMICONDUCTOR, INC. 3230 SCOTT BOULEVARD SANTA CLARA, CA 95054			TRINH, HOA B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2814	

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/045,653	VYVODA ET AL.
	Examiner Vikki H. Trinh	Art Unit 2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8, 12-14, 16, 19-37 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8, 12-14, 16 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Pending Claims

Claims 1-8, 12-14, 16, and 19-37 are pending.

Claims 20-37 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Groups, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 08/25/04.

It is suggested that claims 20-37 should be canceled in response to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
 1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
3. Claim 1- 8, 12-14, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mimura et al. (EP 0395886) in view of Huff et al. (5,950,107).

Mimura et al. (EP 0395886) discloses a method of making a semiconductor device having the steps of providing a metal structure 202 on a substrate 14 ; providing an insulating layer 200 over the metal structure 202; providing a capping structure 210 over the insulating layer 202; and annealing the resulting structure. See figures 30A-30C and page 11, lines 45-55.

However, Mimura et al. (EP 0395886) does not explicitly teach that the metal material is tungsten or that a portion of the metal structure has a width greater than 1 micron.

Huff et al (Huff) teaches a semiconductor device having a substrate 110 and a metal structure 120, 320, wherein the metal structure is made of tungsten (col. 5, line 31).

Mimura et al. (EP 0395886) and Huff are in the same field of making a semiconductor device that includes a metal layer being formed on a substrate.

Therefore, as to claims 1, 6-7, 12-14, 16, 19, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of Huff, to modify the invention of Mimura et al. (EP 0395886) with a tungsten material, so as to prevent any diffusion of the insulating material onto the substrate layer when the device is annealed. In addition, the combined teaching of Mimura and Huff would have been obvious to construct a portion of the metal structure to be about 1 micron thick in width, since it is a *prima facie* obvious to an artisan to make a portion of the metal structure with a specific range of the width for optimization and

experimentation because applicants have not yet established any criticality for the specific width, as claimed.

As to claim 2, Mimura discloses that the substrate includes a dielectric upper surface 206 (figure 30A and page 11, line 46).

As to claim 3, Mimura discloses the capping structure 210 is continuous, See fig. 30B.

As to claim 4, Mimura discloses the capping structure includes a dielectric material 208.

See figure 30B.

As to claim 5, Mimura discloses the dielectric material 192 (fig. 28B) is a PSG (page 11, line 29).

As to claim 8, Mimura and Huff do not explicitly teach a specific range of annealing time with a temperature range. Nevertheless, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the semiconductor device of Mimura and Huff combined with a specific range of time and temperature for annealing the device, since it is a *prima facie* obvious to an artisan for optimization and experimentation to specify the range for annealing time and the temperature range for the metal layer, because applicant has not yet established any criticality for the specifying the ranges.

Note that the specification contains no disclosure of either the critical nature of the claimed dimensions of any unexpected results arising therefrom. Where patentability is aid to be based upon particular chosen dimensions or upon another variable recited in a claim, the applicant must show that the chosen dimensions are critical. (*In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 1578 (Fed. Cir. 1990).)

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8, 12-14, 16, and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

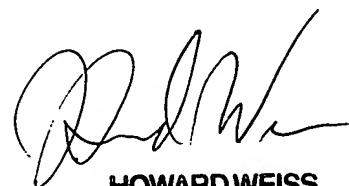
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Vikki Trinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-1719. The Examiner can normally be reached from Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM Eastern Time. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Wael Fahmy, can be reached at (571) 272-1705. The office fax number is 703-872-9306.

Any request for information regarding to the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Also, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public Pair. In addition, status information for unpublished applications is available

through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. If you have questions pertaining to the Private PAIR system, please contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Lastly, paper copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will cease to be mailed to applicants with Office actions as of June 2004. Paper copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature will continue to be included with office actions. These cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. Applicants are referred to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197 for information on this policy. Requests to restart a period for response due to a missing U.S. patent or patent application publications will not be granted.

Vikki Trinh,
Patent Examiner
AU 2814



HOWARD WEISS
PRIMARY EXAMINER